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CONSIDERATIONS

FOR THE

More speedy and effectual Execution
of the ACT,

FOR

Paving, Cleansing, and Lighting

THE

CITY and LIBERTY of *Westminster*,

AND FOR

Removing Annoyances therein.

By C. W. Member of Parliament,

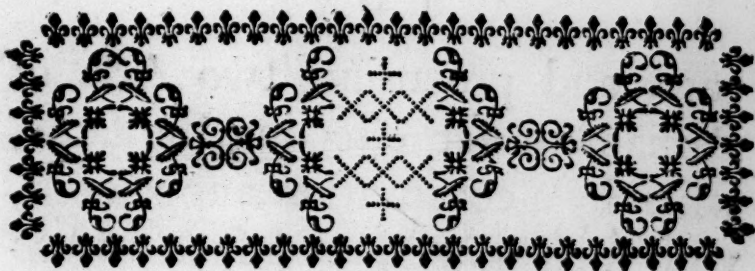
L O N D O N,

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Considerations, &c.

M A N Y schemes have, at different times, been projected, and Acts of Parliament obtained, with a view to the better Paving, Cleansing, and Lighting the city and liberty of *Westminster*, and removing annoyances therein; but all endeavours for that purpose have hitherto proved ineffectual; the ill success, however, of all former schemes hath not discouraged other gentlemen from laying a new plan before the Legislature,

ture, and procuring two Acts of Parliament for effecting the same, whereby a commission is appointed, with such power, and such authority, as will, in all probability, fully answer the good purposes so long desired, and so often and earnestly sought after, by the inhabitants of the said city and liberty: for a proof whereof I refer to the specimen already given in such streets, as have been done by order of the commissioners. Where the whole of each street, being paved at the same time, on a proper level, and in a convex form, not only creates an elegant uniform appearance, but also renders the passage easy and safe, and is likewise much better adapted to endure the excessive wear of this populous town than any pavement could possibly be, whilst every inhabitant

habitant was at liberty to mend his own door, in any shape, or with what materials he thought proper ; the consequence of which was, that some made use of good materials, others bad ; one laid his door high, another low, &c. every one consulting his own interest, or gratifying his own fancy, without the least regard to order, or the safety or convenience of the public. The Posts, Signs, Gutters, Spouts, and other nuisances, are now also removed, and the streets perfectly well cleansed and lighted, which not only adds much to their beauty, but also greatly contributes to the health and safety of the inhabitants ; who, notwithstanding their apprehensions, at first, concerning the Rate to be levied for defraying the expence, are now, from its apparent utility, entirely recon-

reconciled ; and rather contend which streets shall first be paved, and come under the direction and management of the Commissioners ; several applications having been made to the Commissioners for paving particular streets. But there is one thing yet which occasions universal complaint ; that is, the small progress made in this useful undertaking, which is entirely owing to the want of a sufficient fund for extending the work into divers streets at one and the same time ; as a well-wisher therefore to this scheme, and to the city and liberty of *Westminster*, I have considered on many Ways and Means for the raising of such a fund. The first I shall take notice of is, an increase of the Toll at the Turnpikes, which seemed to be the object of the last sessions of
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parliament, but did not succeed, though, I think, from the account then delivered in by the several trusts, they might very properly, and with great justice to the public, be charged with some payment towards paving the streets, which would prevent their expending the surplus income, which some of these trusts appear to have, in a profuse manner. And from the appearance of the said accounts, the public indeed have a right to expect either a diminution of the Toll, or an application of the said surplus to some such useful purpose as above-mentioned.

Another scheme for raising this fund might be by mortgaging the Rate; but I do not think this an eligible method, as the Commissioners cannot possibly ascertain
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their future expences ; and if too great a sum was borrowed on the Rate, they would then be rendered incapable of doing any large repairs, which may probably be wanted hereafter in streets of great wear, such as taking up and wholly relaying the same, with a large addition of new materials; and in works of such a public and permanent nature, the most distant expences which are likely to occur, should be duly weighed and attended to. However, if no other way should be esteemed more proper for raising a supply for this service, I should hope that a very small portion of the Rate might be mortgaged.

A third scheme for furnishing this supply, and which carries the appearance of a just one, is a Tax
upon

upon Wheels; but the difficulty of ascertaining who shall, and who shall not, be liable to this Tax, will be found to be very great, and the mode of collecting it obnoxious; for it cannot be made a general Tax, because of injuring the distant parts of the kingdom, and gentlemen keeping carriages who totally reside in the country; and if it be made a local Tax, by fixing it on Carriages coming into and going out of the city and liberty of *Westminster*, it would be necessary to erect a great number of Turnpikes in different parts of the town, which would not only be attended with large expences, but might always afford an opportunity for clamour and uneasiness; and, upon the whole, any new Tax, in a time of peace, would doubtless be very odious, and meet with great opposition.

A fourth scheme which occurs, and which I am inclined most to favour, is a Lottery ; for, in this case, no person would be a contributor, but by free choice and inclination. This method likewise of raising the money would leave nothing behind it ; would not remain a burthen on the public like all the former ; and we have many and recent instances of Lotteries being granted for public conveniencies, of which I shall just mention the following, *viz.* For the purchase of Sir *Hans Sloan's* curiosities, and establishing the Musæum, a Lottery of 300,000 *l.* was granted, out of which 100,000 *l.* was deducted for that use. For *Westminster* bridge four Lotteries were granted ; the first for 700,000 *l.* the second and third for 325,000 *l.* each, and the fourth for 275,000 *l.* out of each
of

of which Lotteries 15 *per cent.* was deducted for building the Bridge ; and doubtless this scheme for rendering the streets of this great Metropolis healthy, convenient, safe, and elegant (which they certainly will be, if this plan is carried into execution in its full extent) is as well deserving the favor and encouragement of the Legislature as either of the above, for which Lotteries were tolerated. I would therefore propose a Lottery of 300,000 Guineas, to deduct thereout 60,000*l.* and divide 255,000*l.* in prizes; so that allowing* 10,000*l.* for management, &c. there will remain clear, for the use of the commission, 50,000*l.* See the schemes in pages 16 and 17. By

* If the Commissioners have liberty to appoint their own Receivers, a great part of this Expence might be saved.

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such a fund as this, the much desired expedition might be easily accomplished, for the Commissioners would then be enabled to make their contracts in proper time, so as the work might not be delayed for want of materials, as has been the case during this last summer; and also to contract for paving several streets at the same time; for many quarries are now open, of that kind of stone, very justly approved and made use of; and on reasonable notice, almost any quantity may be procured: the commission would be further enabled to proceed, if they should see fit, with paving the by-streets with the old pebbles, which might be done at much less expence while the materials are on the spot, and would be extremely useful on
many

many accounts ; but more particularly for being well lighted, as this would certainly prevent numberless evils, which the present almost total neglect of Lamps affords frequent opportunities for practising. In short, by the help of such a supply as this, we might expect to see a speedy and extensive improvement in the streets ; and indeed I might say, the whole effected in a few years, which, without it, must consequently be a work of infinite time.

The

The following schemes are annexed, to shew that feizable Lotteries may be planned, after deducting the sum above-mentioned, for the use of the Commissioners ;
viz.

SCHEME of Five Guineas a Ticket.

	£.		£.
1 — of —	10,000	— is —	10,000
2 —————	5,000	—————	10,000
4 —————	2,000	—————	8,000
10 —————	1,000	—————	10,000
20 —————	500	—————	10,000
145 —————	100	—————	14,500
600 —————	50	—————	30,000
8050 —————	20	—————	161,000
—————		—————	—————
8832 Prizes			253,500
1 First drawn	—————	—————	500
1 Last drawn	—————	—————	1,000
51166 Blanks.			
—————			
	Deductions for use } of the Commission		60,000
			—————

60000 Tickets at 5 Guineas each 315,000

Not quite six Blanks to a Prize.

N. B. The Prizes to be paid as soon as the drawing is ended.

All Tickets not claimed within a certain time limited
 to be forfeited for the benefit of the Commission.

SCHEME

SCHEME of Three Guineas a Ticket.

	£.		£.
2 — of —	10,000	— is —	20,000
2 —————	5,000	—————	10,000
2 —————	2,000	—————	4,000
8 —————	1,000	—————	8,000
20 —————	500	—————	10,000
210 —————	100	—————	21,000
600 —————	50	—————	30,000
3726 —————	20	—————	74,520
7448 —————	10	—————	74,480
<hr/>			
12018 Prizes			252,000
2 First drawn 500l. each			1,000
2 Last drawn 1000l. each			2,000
87978 Blanks.			
—————	Deduction for use of }		60,000
	the Commission }		
<hr/>			

100000 Tickets at 3 Guineas each 315,000

N. B. A little more than seven Blanks to a Prize.

To be drawn double, and the Prizes paid as soon as the drawing is ended.

All Tickets not claimed within a certain time limited to be forfeited for the Benefit of the Commission.

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It will probably be objected, that the exigencies of state require a Lottery toward raising the supplies for the ensuing year; therefore, as particular services must always give way to national ones, and I have very much at heart the speedier progress of this undertaking, I would in that case propose, that the Commissioners may be allowed a guinea Lottery by way of duplicate to the State Lottery, for raising a larger supply than parliament may think proper to grant out of public money, or in aid of a parliamentary supply. This Lottery would be attended with very little expence, as the drawing would be determined by the other, and be of infinite present service to the Commission, till a larger Lottery can be granted, or some other extensive plan for raising a necessary fund properly established.

I have

I have published these my thoughts on various schemes for raising a sufficient supply for carrying into execution, in its full extent, the act above-mentioned ; in hopes that others, who are also sanguine for its success, will adopt one or other of the said schemes, or be induced to form a new one, and pursue the same vigorously ; as I hope to see the city and liberty of *Westminster* substantially and elegantly paved, well and sufficiently lighted and cleansed, and entirely cleared of all nuisances and incroachments, which would render it the envy and admiration of foreigners, the pride of its inhabitants, and worthy the residence of a *British* King and parliament.

P O S T-

P O S T S C R I P T.

AS the Commissioners for building of *Westminster* bridge were impowered to widen the avenues to the said Bridge, the House of Commons, &c. I could wish that a power was also vested in this Commission for widening those very narrow streets which are great thoroughfares, particularly that part of the *Strand* by *St. Clement's* church; which, with many others that might be mentioned, are great nuisances, being excessively dangerous for carriages, and a great hindrance and obstruction to trade; and, I dare say, a discretionary power of this kind might very safely be lodged in the hands of such a commission, who have no other view or interest in
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promoting this good and useful work, than the benefit of the public. What has induced me the rather to mention this, is, that many useful alterations of this sort might be made, without any expence to the public, as the improved ground-rents, after the streets are widened, and rendered more commodious, would fully answer the expence of purchasing.

